exhibition made a positive contribution in strengthening and expansion of trade ties between India and Afghanistan.

Demand to sign CTBT and NPT

3028. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada has urged Government to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has offered to mediate between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether Canada would like to assist India in exploiting nuclear energy for commercial purposes by opening the vast North American market; and

(c) if so, Government views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Canadian Government takes upon itself to urge all countries, including India, to become party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Canada has not offered to mediate between India and Pakistan.

(b) No.

(c) Government's well-known stand is that India cannot accede to the NPT which is a discriminatory treaty. India will not stand in the way of entry into force of CTBT and remains committed to the endeavour of evolving a national consensus in support of accession to this Treaty.

Triangle of India-Iran-Afghanistan

†3029. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to form a triangle of India-Iran-Afghanistan to boost trade with Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.